

DIDSBURY REVIEW

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

www.didsburyreview.ca

Volume 24 Issue 52

News: Town moving forward with blue bins - p.2

News: Budget deliberations for 2012 - p.3

That's a wrap!



Madison Samuel-Barclay/Didsbury Review

Dozens of local volunteers packed into the Didsbury Zion Evangelical Missionary Church on December 21 to help sort and wrap the plethora of donations collected by the Community Christmas Helpers hamper program. Food, toys and other goods were sorted and wrapped from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and will continue being wrapped so they are ready for pick-up before Christmas.

Town taking action against water meter problems

Estimated readings and gallon measurements on meters to be no more

BY MADISON SAMUEL-BARCLAY
Review Staff

The Town of Didsbury is preparing to take assertive action to address the numerous complaints and issues with the water meters in the town following a regular council meeting on December 20.

During the meeting, councillors discussed and motioned on the options available to them in regards to changing the method of billing homes so that readings would no longer be estimated, as well as have water meters converted from gallons to litres.

"We need to get accurate

readings so we can bill accurately," said Mayor Brian Wittal at the December 20 meeting. "We need to try to provide better service without increasing the cost too much."

Councillors were presented with five motions to make, the second of which was the most critical as it would decide the new method in which meter billings would be done out of five options, with pros and cons weighed out for the councillors' deliberation.

Of the five billing options, council moved on the third listed option: to hire contractors to read the meters of the entire town every month.

This option eliminates estimations from billing as it provides accurate readings on a monthly basis. It also allows public works staff to be applied to other town jobs and projects instead of being recruited to meter reading duties.

However, this option will also cost \$0.76 per month per customer for the town, and will mean that the town will lose a certain level of control over the process. There are also no capital costs for meter guns.

The costs of hiring contractors to do the readings versus having public works staff do it evens out and presents more pros in the long run, council agreed,

especially considering this option resolves the estimation issue the town has been facing for well over a year now.

Having frequent, monthly reports also allows contractors to see leaks faster than the current reading method.

The term with the contractors would last five years, with the first two years on a fixed rate for the town. Contractors would be properly marked, with staff and their vehicles easily recognizable to residents.

Following the motion on the new billing option, the town also got serious about the long-standing meter problem in Didsbury,

where meters would read gallons instead of litres. This issue had been something the town had tried to correct in the past with little avail due to poor co-operation and other roadblocks.

However, the third motion made by council was to ensure that all meters are changed over to litres before March 31, 2012. Furthermore, it was recommended to council and administration to terminate service to those customers who do not comply with the request for admission to the house to complete the work, providing that reasonable notice was given to the customers.

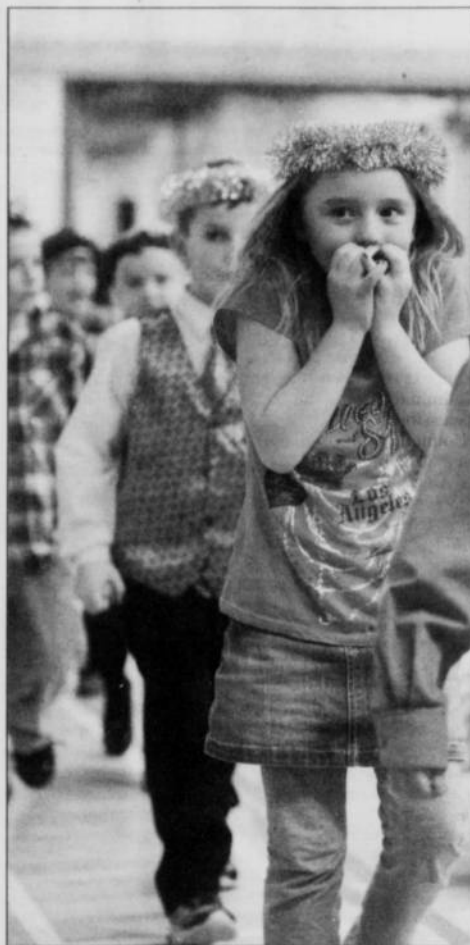
The changeover will not cost residents. As well, council will be issuing a notice to landlords who have multiple users on their meters to rewrite their leases within six months. One individual (the landlord) will be charged for one meter, with payments thereafter to be billed to tenants accordingly by the landlord. However, the option to install new metres for multiple users will be an available option to landlords, at the landlord's expense.

"We're done playing around with these things," said Wittal at the meeting. "These issues have been dragging for a long time."

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Jingling and Singing at Ross Ford Elementary



ABOVE - A Ross Ford Elementary School student experiences a bit of stage fright on her way into the gym at the beginning of the school's Christmas concert last Tuesday night.

TOP LEFT - The students perform a Christmas song during the concert.

BOTTOM LEFT - A group of students perform a song with bells during the concert.

Photos by Noel West/Didsbury Review

Didsbury taking next step towards blue bin program

BY MADISON SAMUEL-BARCLAY
Review Staff

Didsbury's proposed blue bin program is taking another step towards fruition following a regular council meeting on December 20.

The program, which the town only approved in principle for introduction

in January 2013, has received several positive and encouraging comments to move forward from residents, according to several councillors at the meeting.

"A lot of residents want this to take place," said Coun. Lavar Adams at the meeting.

Council motioned to address the Mountain View

Regional Waste Commission about the town's intention to move forward with the blue bin program for 2013, and will be awaiting a response as to whether or not they are eligible to move forward.

Originally, Didsbury, Olds and Carstairs were interested in starting a joint blue bin program. However, Olds officials

have indicated they would like to try the blue bin program on a trial basis, while Carstairs would like to try the program on a voluntary participation basis.

Without the commitment to the program a challenge was presented to the joint agreement that councillors did not want to entertain.

"It's a lot of money spent for a trial," said Adams.

"It's cost prohibited if they're not in. We've been talking about this for a year. Either make the commitment or just say no and shut it down."

As for the voluntary resident participation program Carstairs has suggested, Mayor Brian Wittal said he "doesn't see that working either."

So Didsbury will be

attempting to go into the program alone, supporting the program and giving the waste commission the decision to determine if it will or will not be coming to the town in 2013.

The new blue bins will cost the town \$8.50 per bin. However, the waste commission will be looking after the bins in terms of delivery and collection.

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DIDSBURY REVIEW

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What a difference time, dedication, practice and a lot of great coaching makes for this new Tyke Team! We have seen huge improvements from the beginners, the experienced players have sharpened their skills and they've all pulled together for a great first-half of the season. Anna Bischke, Billy Hoosin, Jaxson Hosegood, Jarrett Miller and Brody Rylance have been strong goal scorers, keying in on their defence and focusing on supporting their teammates! It was a huge thrill for the first time goal scorers this month: Chase Aarsby, Donavin Bedard and Cole Howard now have a taste of getting a goal and are hungrier than ever! Our rising stars, Keagan Knutson, Gavin Korshuh and Ashton Visser are really getting their legs and showing their game face more and more! Santa Claus came to surprise the team last week and got everyone's wish list after a quick game of shinny! Our first away tournament was in Airdrie Dec 16-18th and the Tykes made it to the A final where they were put the test against Cheshmere after being undefeated in their prior 4 games! They are a dominating force in our league and exhibition games, with a hot record of 12 wins, 1 tie and only 1 loss!

The team wishes to thank all the parents, coaches and managers for all their love and commitment to their Tyke's success!

2012 budget places town growth at forefront

New operating budget and taxes still undecided

BY MADISON SAMUEL-BARCLAY
Review Staff

Taxpayers may incur a possible tax increase of between 2.25 and 2.5 per cent next year according to preliminary budget discussions.

Council had a preliminary 2012 budget meeting on Dec. 16 where they reviewed recommendations from administration. The final budget meeting will be held on January 24, 2012, where the new operating and capital budget will be established for the new year.

At the moment the town is looking at a preliminary capital budget figure of around \$7.9 million. However this figure may change as the new budget comes closer to finalization.

In the meantime, council will be adopting the 2011 operating budget (\$7.5 million in expenditures) as an interim budget until the January 24 meeting so that operations can continue until a revised budget has been established.

The slant on the new budget is the consideration of town growth.

However, those in attendance of the public meeting on December 16 warned that while growth was indeed a large factor in deciding on the new budget, keeping in mind the current population and residents of the town was just as, if not more important.

"The future appears to be set on growth, but growth will only happen if the conditions are proper for the people of Didsbury," said one gentleman in attendance.

At the meeting, an example-only presentation of residential tax inflation or deflation between two and six per cent figures was handed out.

However, though the figures presented were between two and six per cent, a more likely working range for the final taxation decision will be between 2.25 and 2.5 per cent.

Administration recommended council could consider what they called a low tax rate increase, keep-

ing in mind current commitment to projects underway and increasing debt load.

Projects still in consideration by the town are growing police services, a fire hall build out, library upgrades and the ongoing water reservoir project.

At this time, no increase or decrease in taxes were confirmed at the December 16 meeting.

Other preliminary figures and goals in other departments were reviewed by the town both at the December 16 public budget meeting and the December 20 regular council meeting, and are expected to continue to be revised until the budget is finalized.

Revenue changes are expected in the Public Works, Safety, Taxes and other departments, while expense changes are expected in the Administration, Recreation, Library, Safety, Public Works and other departments.

An estimated surplus of \$813,000 for cash flow requirements was projected for these changes.

Hit and runs cause damage

BY JENNIFER ISAAC
For The Review

Didsbury RCMP are investigating a report of a hit and run that occurred on December 16 between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The incident resulted in damage to a rear passenger door on a 2008 Hyundai Elantra, which was parked on MacEwan Drive in Carstairs.

In a second incident, a resident of Carriage Lane Drive was awakened by a noise just after midnight on December 19.

"She observed a light-coloured truck that was silver or blue driving away from her residence," said Sgt. Jeff Jacobson of the Didsbury RCMP. "The

truck was last seen turning south onto Highway 580. The resident's Buick Enclave had damage to the rear driver's side bumper."

Both matters are still under investigation. If anyone has information about these incidents, he or she is asked to contact Didsbury RCMP at 403-335-3382.

On December 15, Didsbury RCMP conducted a checkpoint from 11 p.m. until midnight at the intersection of Highways 582 and 2A.

"Officers held another checkpoint after that in the Carstairs area," said Sgt. Jacobson.

In total, 25 vehicles were checked, he said.

"Everyone was compliant," Jacobson said. "No tickets were issued."

Thirty vehicles went through a December 16 checkpoint, which was conducted at Rge. Rd. 20 and Bergen Road.

"Again, no tickets were issued," he added.

Jacobson said he's pleased to see people are making other arrangements while they're out celebrating the holiday season, and he said to continue planning ahead for New Year's.

"We recommend that people make sure they have a way home after attending all those New Year's parties," he added.

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After hours pager 403.507.3624
Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

PUBLIC MEETINGS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday January 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday January 24, 2012 at 7:00 pm
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday January 11, 2012 at 4:30 pm
Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Town Office, Didsbury Neighborhood Place, Public Works and Didsbury Memorial Complex will be closed on the following days for New Years:

TOWN OFFICE, DIDSBURY NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE, PUBLIC WORKS
• Closed Monday January 2 and will re-open on Tuesday January 3 at 8:30 am

DIDSBURY MEMORIAL COMPLEX
• Closed Sunday January 1 for New Years

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Happy New Year!

From Mayor Wittal, Council and Staff



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2011 TAXES

Please be advised that all outstanding tax balances on December 31, 2011 will be subject to receive an 18% penalty. This penalty will be applied on January 1, 2012.

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Photo submitted by Didsbury Chamber of Commerce

The winner of the large yard category (attributed to home owner Kathy Legg).



Photo submitted by Didsbury Chamber of Commerce

The winning home of the small yard category, 1513 Walter Place.

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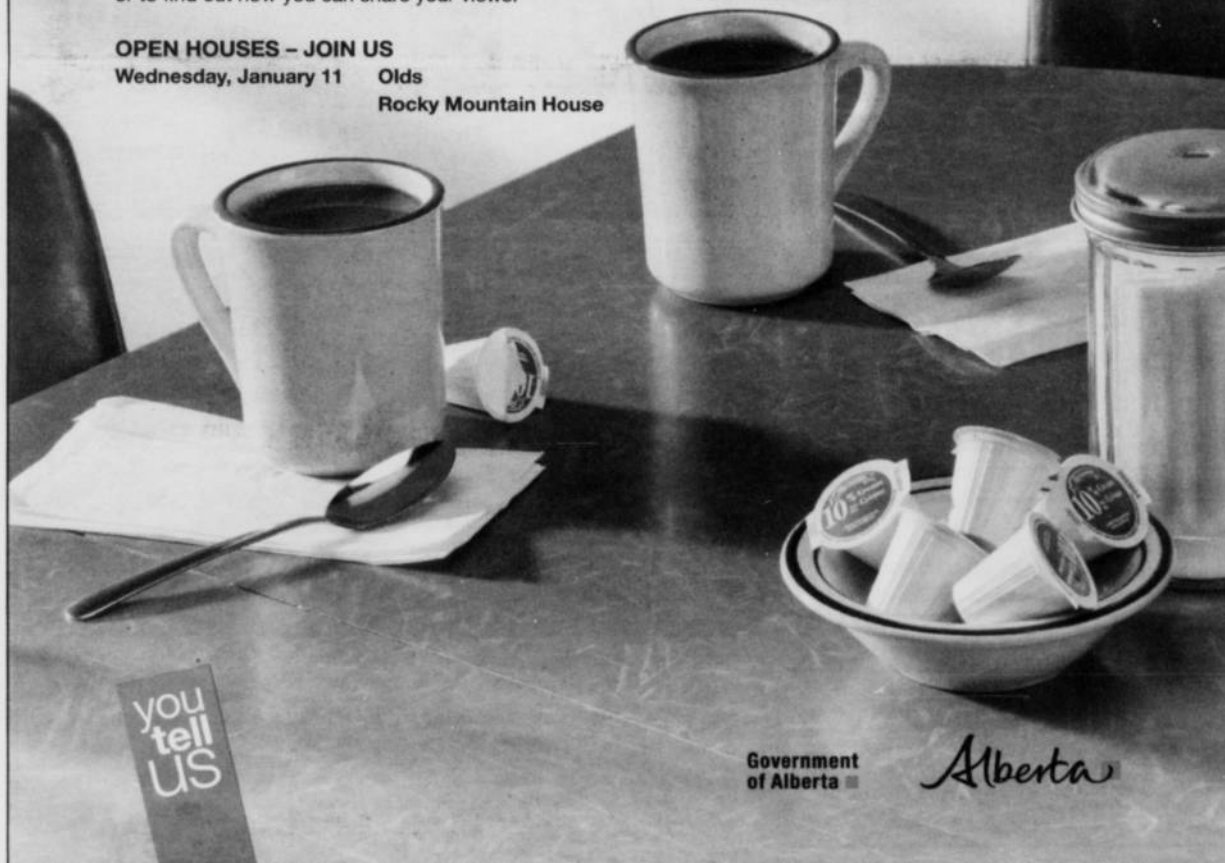
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Lighting up the town

BY MADISON SAMUEL-
BARCLAY
Review Staff

The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce has sponsored another Christmas Light Decorating competition.

Results are in for the large yard, small yard and rural categories.

This year's large yard winner (pictured) is Kathy Legg's residence. The small yard winner (pictured) is the residence at 1513 Walter Place (homeowner unknown).

The rural winner (not pictured) is Susan Miller's residence.

The Christmas Light Decorating competition is a yearly event that has town and rural residents pulling out all the stops on their Christmas decorations.

Winners are selected by "Secret Santa Judges" who observe the homes of registered participants.



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Course teaches valuable life skills

BY JENNIFER ISAAC
For The Review

A focus on healthy, active living was the goal behind a new program offered at Hugh Sutherland School.

Recreational classes are among the electives in the new CTS courses that students in Grades 10 to 12 can choose from.

"We have a class of 24 students in the elective and every one of them is focusing on a different topic," said Tricia McCambly, Hugh Sutherland School's health and wellness teacher, who was also instrumental in developing the new program.

"They come into this class and they say they're interested in these things," she added. "It's very self-directed and they get to pick what they want to study. They design their year as to what they want to learn."

Hugh Sutherland School designed a program in recreation leadership and this year, they introduced a full-year Health Services Foundations class, which is mandatory for all Grade 10 students. From there, they can continue in an optional course called Recreational Leadership, where they select three or five single-credit courses. These include foundations for training, musculoskeletal system, sports medicine, sport taping, coaching, training and conditioning and officiating.

Lake Jesske, in Grade 11, is coaching for the first time, and he's having fun doing it.

"It's really cool," he said. "The module teaches all the fundamentals."

Jesske offers his five years of curling expertise to the Little Rocks, junior curlers between the ages of 10 and 14.

"Some of the highlights of this program for me are teaching the younger students new skills," he said. "I like to help them perfect their game."

He noted that one of the challenges is "getting them to settle down. I just try to get them to listen and focus," he



Jennifer Isaac/Didsbury Review
Hugh Sutherland grade 10 student Caitlyn Howard is studying Foundations for Training in her Health Pathways class. She works out at the school's fitness facility.

said. Grade 10 student Caitlyn Howard is studying musculoskeletal systems because of her personal interest in sports. "I want to know how muscles work so if I ever get hurt, I know what to do," she said.

She tested her knowledge when she injured her ankle last fall. "The course helped me to learn where my muscles are," she said.

Howard - who plays volleyball and basketball on the

junior varsity team - also studies other modules, including Foundations for Training, which she said assists her in her own workout. She heads to the school's fitness facility on a regular basis to do ab crunches and other exercises.

"I'm also studying sport psychology, which helps me to set goals," she said. "It also helps you to know how to act when you're under pressure playing."

Most importantly though, she's learning valuable life skills. "I know it's good to keep an active lifestyle after I graduate," she said. "I want to be healthy the rest of my life and being active helps you to be happy in general."

The self-direction of the course was challenging at first. "The teacher doesn't stand behind you and tell you what to do," she said. "If you don't put any effort into it, nothing will get done."

The courses are available to high schools throughout the province through Alberta Education. Chinook's Edge was part of a pilot project that gave each high school a head start on implementation. All high schools in the division are beginning to offer the courses, which involve the areas of health-care services, human and social services, community-care services and recreation leadership.

"Five of our students just completed a six-week class involving two groups of younger students from Carstairs Elementary," McCambly said.

Once a week, the high school students led the kids in after-school games, including soccer, floor hockey and basketball.

"They gained a lot of skills in the process, because they had to work with the principals from both schools, establish a registration package, write a letter to parents and create course outlines," McCambly said. "I'm really proud of all they accomplished, and they're earning high school credits at the same time."

"This program also helps develop community leaders. To me, it's just a winner."

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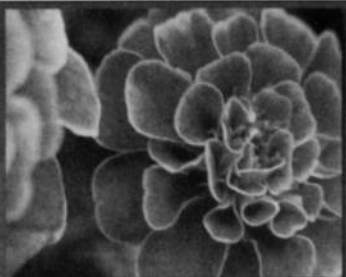
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Deadlines: Friday - 12 noon, Holiday weekends - Thursday 12 noon.
All marketplace ads must be pre-paid.
Visa and Mastercard accepted by phone.

100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries

An important service

A funeral service is important. It plays a key-role in the grieving process.



A family's Love is forever



"Familiar faces you have come to know and trust"

• Olds 403-507-9610
• Innisfail 403-227-0006
• Sundre 403-638-4393

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REVIEW
335-3301

1005. Help Wanted

DIDSBURY SPRUCE FARMS
Looking for motivated reliable laborers capable of intense manual labour and flexible hours. Experience in agriculture and machine operating is helpful. Starting in May until late October or early November.

Job description:

- Harvesting trees
- Planting trees
- Tying wire baskets
- Trimming trees
- Picking rocks
- Weed control
- Pest control
- Plant care
- Landscaping
- Bagging bark mulch
- Spreading bark mulch
- Lawn mowing

Wage \$10 per hour

For inquiry call Brett at
(403) 586-8733
RR2 Site 11 Box 2
Didsbury AB T0M 0W0

3130. Fitness/Health

REGISTER EARLY FOR 2012
Hatha Yoga classes with Aly Nind at Didsbury Massage and Wellness Center
Starting Thursday Jan. 12 from 12 - 1 pm.

10 weeks - \$130.
2206 - 20th Street
403-335-4005

4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

HAY FOR SALE: \$20/ bale, delivery available. No Sunday calls please. (403)704-3993.

5130. Apartments For Rent

COLLEGE GREEN APARTMENTS- 1802-16 St. Didsbury. 55 plus, adult 1 bdrm. \$600/mth. incl. utilities \$400.00 DD. N/S, N/P 403-335-3394

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT- \$650 + power. 403-335-9360
SPACIOUS 3 BDRM. 1.5 bath. New floor + newer carpet Available Immed. \$640.00/mth plus utilities. 403-348-6594

5150. Rooms/Room & Board

DIDSBURY MOTEL FALL & Winter Special Room Rent Starts @ \$550 / Month Please Inquire 403 335 3159

5600. Commercial

FOR RENT

CALL NOW!

Best Main Street Retail in Didsbury



910 sq ft + washroom + common area Utilities included

Available Immediately

403-556-9886

5600. Commercial

1005. Help Wanted

BILTON
Welding and Manufacturing Ltd. designs, engineers and manufactures custom oilfield equipment. We need staff for our newest and 7th shop located in Innisfail, Alberta!! If you would like to join a team of professionals in your field, we are currently seeking

Journeyman and Apprentice Pipefitters

(Journeyman starting between \$29-\$45/hour based on experience)

These are permanent full-time positions with competitive salary and benefits package including RRSP and Tool Allowance programs.

Please fax resume to 403-227-7796, email to hr@bilton.ca

5160. Condos For Rent

DIDSBURY CONDO 3 BDRM. 2 bath, blinds, deck, parking W/D Jan.1, call for incentive 403-254-2354

5170. Duplex / 4-plex for rent

1/2 DUPLEX IN DIDSBURY 2 plus 1 bdrm., 1.5 bath attached garage, partly developed basement, 50 plus complex. Avail. Immed. \$900/mth. plus utilities \$900.00 DD. Rod 403-667-0000

3 BDRM. 4-PLEX. 11/2 bath. All new paint. Excellent condition. \$800/month includes water, garbage & sewer. 403-335-8299

5600. Commercial

FOR RENT: SHOP with office Great Location in Didsbury Rent negotiable on term Plenty of parking 403-559-9866

To Advertise Call 335-3301

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

Main Floor Union Bank Building Didsbury. Retail/Service/Office. 1400 sq. ft. + storage. Available Sept. 1/11. Call Jeff @ 403-335-3477

Read,
Reuse,
Recycle
Call 335-3301
DIDSBURY REVIEW

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FRONT PORCH REALTY

Allen Reed and Rod Neufeld 335-2222 • www.frontporchrealty.ca • 2009 - 20 Avenue, Didsbury

2110 - 12 Avenue



3+2 bedrooms, 2 baths, some suite potential, newer riding, central location, oversized double garage

\$244,900

306 Westhill Close



Large well maintained bungalow in prime location, 3 + 1 bdrms, 3 baths, jetted tub, fireplace, double "stacked" garage, beautiful yard

\$ 279,900

#60 Didsbury Mobile Home Park



Affordable starter home, 1976 mobile home on rented lot, 3 bedrooms, 2 storage sheds, on outer edge of the park

\$ 19,900

113 Acres Zoned Agriculture



Lots of possibilities, great building sites, creek runs through it, close to Olds and Didsbury

\$299,900

1, 2204 - 7 Avenue



An affordable option!
3 bedroom
4-plex unit,
1 1/2 baths,
main floor
laundry,
large deck,
reasonable
condo fees,
price to sell

\$99,900

207 Westhill Close



Excellent location, front walkout basement, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, huge pie lot, single attached garage

\$259,900

2202 - 20 Street



Terrific commercial land in down town Didsbury, 336 feet of frontage, fully serviced in 2 places, great location

\$199,900

1912 - 20 Street



Great Commercial Building on Didsbury's busiest block, over 2500 sq ft, solid tenant with a long term lease, some additional space to rent as well

\$249,900

THE PORCH BOYZ



We're SOLD on the year to come!

1504 - 14 Street



Excellent single level living, corner gas fireplace, good storage, newer flooring, single garage, no condo fees

\$199,900

206 Campus Green



Terrific 45+ suite, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, reasonable condo fees, over-looking courtyard, great neighbors

\$189,900

3, 705 - 23 Street



Affordable 4-plex condo unit, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, main floor laundry, over 1000 sq ft developed, reasonable condo fees.

\$119,900

102 Valarosa Drive



Ready to move into, brand new home, 9' ceilings, gas fireplace, dark oak flooring and cabinets, rear treated deck and front veranda

\$284,900

1301 - 24 Street



3 + 1 bdrms, 2 baths, bright country kitchen, drilled well, pellet stove in front family room, direct access to large double garage, nice courtyard area

\$239,900

108 Westheights Close



Family friendly home in a quiet cul-de-sac, 2 bedrooms + den, 1 1/2 baths, double detached garage, large fenced yard

\$229,900

79 Didsbury Mobile Home Park



affordable home on rented lot, 3 bedrooms, newer laminate cabinets & appliances, bathroom reno, nice and clean

\$39,900

2102 - 12 Avenue



Nicely upgraded home, hardwood floors, wood stove, workshop, beautiful private yard, lots of room for a garage

\$219,900

6 Valarosa Drive



open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, hickory kitchen cabinets, jetted tub, mostly developed basement, large double garage, only 5 years old

\$269,900

1506 - 18 Avenue



live on the main and rent the basement suite out, m 3 + 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer mechanical, newer roof, single garage

\$234,900

8 Westhill Place



Great family duplex, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, newer laminate, fireplace, excellent location close to schools and parks

\$169,900

6 College Green Close



Lovely upgraded condo, hardwood, gas fireplace, 2+1 bedrooms, 3 baths, main floor laundry, fully finished, prime location

\$249,900

Newly Subdivided!



2 acreage parcels close to Didsbury, drilled well and power, nicely located on a curve, great access to OHS

3.46 Acres \$249,900
2.52 Acres \$239,900

2310 - 15 Avenue



Beautiful breed yard, 3 + 1 bedrooms, walk-up from the basement, single garage, south facing deck

\$256,900

715 Stonehaven Drive, Carstairs



large bungalow, affordable and well maintained, oak kitchen, main floor laundry, 2 + 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, main floor office, great location

\$325,000

FRONT PORCH FOCUS

**WE WANT TO WISH ALL OF
OUR FRIENDS, CLIENTS
AND FUTURE CLIENTS A
VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
WITH BLESSINGS
IN 2012!**